

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An air bag system for a passenger car comprising at least one inflatable air bag housed in a roof frame of the car, the roof frame enclosing a top of a windshield of the passenger car, wherein when the air bag is actuated, it unfolds in a direction of travel opposite a direction of travel of the car such that, after the air bag unfolds, the air bag is located above a head of a driver and / or a passenger.

2. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an air bag control connected to a sensor, the sensor detecting a rollover of the passenger car wherein the air bag control actuates the air bag only when the passenger car rolls over.

3. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the passenger car is a convertible, and wherein an air bag control actuates the air bag only when a top of the convertible is open.

4. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein when actuated, the air bag unfolds in the opposite direction of travel and in an upward direction.

5. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the unfolded air bag extends substantially over an entire width of an interior of the passenger car.

6. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air bag includes at least one side wing at a side end of the air bag which unfolds downwards, upon actuating the air bag, such that, after unfolding, the air bag is located on a side of the head of the driver or the passenger.

7. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein an inflation means for inflating the air bag upon its actuation is provided and designed such that the air bag unfolds more slowly than an air bag housed in a steering wheel.

8. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air bag is designed such that, after unfolding, an inflated state is maintained longer than that of an air bag housed in a steering wheel.

9. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air bag includes a plurality of chambers above the driver's or the passenger's head.

10. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 9, wherein individual chambers of the plurality of chambers communicate with each other over check valve means.

11. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 9, wherein a chamber, which is arranged externally on a side with respect to the driver's or the passenger's head, is designed such that, when the air bag is inflated, the chamber projects deeper into a passenger space than a chamber arranged above the head of the driver or the passenger.

12. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 9, wherein a chamber, which is arranged in a center of the car with respect to the driver's head or the passenger's head, is designed such that, when the air bag is inflated, the chamber projects deeper into a passenger space than a chamber arranged above the head of the driver or the passenger.

13. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 9, wherein the plurality of chambers include vertically adjacent chambers and wherein a vertically adjacent chamber facing the driver's or the passenger's head, is softer than a vertically adjacent chamber arranged further toward a top of the car when the air bag is inflated.

14. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein an outer upper skin of the inflated air bag is made of a mechanically robust material.

15. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the roof frame contains a receiving space which houses the air bag and is sealed by a cover, wherein the cover is mounted on a lower edge of the roof frame so as to pivot about a substantially horizontal swivel axis, running substantially at right angles to a longitudinal direction of the car, wherein the cover has an open position, which is defined by an opening stop, and in which the cover forms, upon actuating the air bag, a substantially horizontal bearing surface which guides the unfolding air bag and supports the unfolded air bag.

16. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 15, wherein when the passenger car is designed as a convertible, the cover is blocked in a closed position by a top of the convertible or by a component of the top when the top is closed.

17. An air bag system for a passenger car comprising at least one inflatable air bag housed in a component of the car wherein when the air bag is

actuated, the air bag is located above the head of a driver and/or a passenger of the car.

18. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 17, further comprising an air bag control connected to a sensor, the sensor detecting a rollover of the passenger car wherein the air bag control actuates the air bag only when the passenger car rolls over.

19. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 17, wherein the passenger car is a convertible, and wherein an air bag control actuates the air bag only when a top of the convertible is open.

20. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 17, wherein the unfolded air bag extends substantially over an entire width of an interior of the passenger car.

21. The air bag system, as claimed in claim 17, wherein the air bag includes at least one side wing at a side end of the air bag which unfolds downwards, upon actuating the air bag, such that, after unfolding, the air bag is located on a side of the head of the driver or the passenger.

22. An air bag system for a passenger car comprising:

means for protecting a head of a driver and/or a passenger of the car, wherein the means for protecting, when actuated, is deployed above the head of the driver and/or the passenger.

23. The air bag system of claim 22 further comprising:

means for actuating the means for protecting the head of the driver and/or passenger, wherein the means for actuating only actuates the air bag when the passenger car rolls over.

24. The air bag of claim 22, wherein the means for protecting the head of the driver and/or the passenger, when actuated, extends substantially over an entire width of an interior of the passenger car.